

We claim:

1. A method of providing a user interface for use with a data base, wherein the database includes plural records, each having plural data fields therein, wherein a data field contains information taken from the group of information types consisting of entered information, empty and null, wherein empty and null data fields comprise blank data fields, comprising:

displaying a selected record according to a display protocol;

determining if the display protocol requires display of a blank data field of the record, and, if so, displaying a substitute data field which is taken from the group of data fields consisting of system generated data fields and alternate data fields;

wherein said displaying a substitute data field includes displaying the information in the substitute data field in a enhanced manner to alert a user to the presence of the substitute information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying a substitute data field which is a system generated data field includes inserting an image into the data field, manipulations the font of the data field, including presenting the font in bold, italic, underlined, in reverse video, with a color change, changing the fonts, using reserved characters, and providing a graphic mixed with text.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying a substitute data field which is an alternate data field includes selecting a data field containing entered information and presenting that data field information to the user interface.

4. A method of providing a user interface for use with a data base, wherein the database includes plural records, each having plural data fields therein, wherein a data field contains information taken from the group of information types consisting of entered information, empty and null, wherein empty and null data fields comprise blank data fields, comprising:

5 displaying a selected record according to a display protocol;  
determining if the display protocol requires display of a blank data field of the record, and, if so, displaying a substitute data field which is taken from the group of data fields consisting of system generated data fields, including includes inserting an image into the data field, manipulations the font of the data field, including presenting the font in bold, italic, underlined, in  
10 reverse video, with a color change, changing the fonts, using reserved characters, and providing a graphic mixed with text; and alternate data fields;

wherein said displaying a substitute data field includes displaying the information in the substitute data field in a enhanced manner to alert a user to the presence of the substitute information.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein said displaying a substitute data field which is an alternate data field includes selecting a data field containing entered information and presenting that data field information to the user interface.

6. A method of providing a user interface for use with a data base, wherein the database includes plural records, each having plural data fields therein, wherein a data field contains information taken from the group of information types consisting of entered information, empty and null, wherein empty and null data fields comprise blank data fields, comprising:

5 displaying a selected record according to a display protocol;

determining if the display protocol requires display of a blank data field of the record, and, if so, displaying a substitute data field which is taken from the group of data fields consisting of system generated data fields and alternate data fields, including selecting a data field containing entered information and presenting that data field information to the user interface;

10 wherein said displaying a substitute data field includes displaying the information in the substitute data field in an enhanced manner to alert a user to the presence of the substitute information.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said displaying a substitute data field which is a

15 system generated data field includes inserting an image into the data field, manipulating the font of the data field, including presenting the font in bold, italic, underlined, in reverse video, with a color change, changing the fonts, using reserved characters, and providing a graphic mixed with text.